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## A NEW BIRD OF PARADISE.

By THE HON. WALTER ROTHSCHILD.

(Plate V.)

### *Astrapia splendidissima* sp. nov.

ADULT MALE.—Head, sides of the head, occiput, and hind-neck brilliant metallic golden green, the feathers of the occiput bright blue, narrowly edged with the golden green. Back shining velvety purple; rump and upper tail-coverts sooty black. Chin and throat bluish green with an oily gloss. Between the throat and ear-coverts is a narrow line of fiery crimson, running down into the crimson patch on the upper breast. Feathers of the lower neck greenish purple, edged with crimson in a certain light, and followed by a broad semicircular patch of deep fiery crimson. Breast and abdomen dark metallic green, with an olive oily gloss, as on the abdomen of *Astrapia nigra*. On the sides of the breast under the wing are some broad scaly green feathers, edged with copper. Thighs and under tail-coverts sooty black. Wings and upper wing-coverts sooty black, slightly glossed with purple. Under wing-coverts like the back. Two outer pairs of rectrices black with the utmost base white; third pair with a large white basal spot; fourth pair with nearly the basal third white; fifth pair white for two-thirds, the tip black. The apical portion of the central pair of tail-feathers is unfortunately shot away; the remaining part is white, and we may well suppose that they are likewise broadly tipped with black. Bill and legs (in skin) blackish brown.

Culmen 1.55 inch (= 39.3 mm.); wing 5.25 inches (= 133.5 mm.); tarsus 1.5 inch (= 38 mm.); the proportional length and gradual increase in length of the rectrices is the same as in *Astrapia nigra*, the outermost pair being shortest, *i.e.* 2.9 inches (= 73.5 mm.), the second pair from the central (the fifth) being 6.8 inches (= 173 mm.) long. Judging from the thickness of the shafts of the central pair, as well as from the gradual increase of the rest and from the similarly constructed tail of *Astrapia nigra*, we may suppose that the central tail-feathers are about 9 or 10 inches long.

The type is in my Museum at Tring. It was found among a number of plumassiers' trade-skins, said to have come from the foot of the Charles Louis Mountains in Dutch New Guinea.

On comparison with *Astrapia nigra* some of the structural characters show important differences. The feathers covering part of the nostrils are a little shorter than in *A. nigra*. The large tufts behind the ear-coverts of *A. nigra* are very much smaller, in fact barely indicated, in *A. splendidissima*, and not different in

colour from the hind-neck. The splendid pectoral band is much broader and more patch-like, the feathers above it less velvety. The scaly feathers on the sides of the breast do not extend so far down as in *A. nigra*. The beak of the new species is actually larger than that of the much bigger *Astrapia nigra*.

These differences however, in my opinion, certainly do not warrant the erection of a new genus; for, though some are considerably modified, all the structural characters of the genus *Astrapia* are present and distinctly visible in my new bird.

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## EINE NEUE XENOCICHLA.

VON ANTON REICHENOW.

HERR HARTERT sandte mir mehrere als *Criniger simplex* bezeichnete Exemplare einer *Xenocichla*, die ihm von *X. simplex* aus anderen Gegenden abzuweichen schienen. Ich fand diese Vermuthung bestätigt, und gebe auf Herrn Hartert's Wunsch, im folgenden die Diagnose der neuen, nach ihm benannten, Art.

### *Xenocichla harterti* sp. nov.

*X. simplici* similis, sed notaeo multo obscuriore (olivascens-fusco, uropygio paulum rufescente, pileo obscurius tineto, loris nigricantibus); subalaribus et remigum marginibus interioribus rufis nec ochraceo-luteis; subcaudalibus tibiisque sicut rectricum limbis interioribus fulvis, nec fulvescente-albis; hypochondriis olivaceo-brunneis, plus minusve rufescentibus, nec olivaceo-griseis; gula alba, praepectore olivaceo-griseo, abdomine medio flavescente-albo (his partibus ut in *X. simplici* tinetis); rostro nigro. Long. tot. c. 200 mm.; al. im. 102-107; caud. 100; rostr. a. fr. 19, 20; tars. 24, 25.

Typus im Tring Museum. Exemplare auch in Leiden und Berlin.

*Hab.* Südliche Theile von Sierra Leone (Sulymah River) und nördliches Liberia (Robertsport, Grand Cape Mount).

Auf diese Art beziehen sich folgende Bücherstellen: *Criniger simplex* Büttik. (nec Hartl.), *Notes Leyden Museum*, xii., p. 203 (Robertsport); *op. cit.*, xiv., p. 22 (Sulymah River); wahrscheinlich auch *op. cit.*, x., p. 80 (Junk River).

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